

Nunes, Costa co-host dairy air quality town hall

Reps. Devin Nunes and Jim Costa hosted a dairy air quality town hall meeting with air quality experts, dairy industry representatives and individual dairymen to discuss continued research on dairy emissions and the recent tentative agreement between the industry and air regulators.

The meeting was held Aug. 29, at the University of California Center—Fresno.

The town hall was in response to a ruling by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District setting new regulations on dairy air emissions. The scientific data used to formulate the regulation was brought into question by the industry and scientists who have studied air quality around dairies.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and the dairy industry have reached a tentative agreement on a process for resolving the problems associated with emissions.

The town hall was aimed at informing the congressman of the history and science of the ruling, as well as to determine what steps will be taken to gain consensus on the issue.

Among those who spoke at the event were:

Richard Cotta, Senior Vice President, California Dairies Inc., and President, Community Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship (CARES).

Paul Martin, Director of Environmental Services, Western United Dairymen

J.P. Cativiela, Program Coordinator, CARES

Denise Mullinax, Hilmar Cheese Company

Charles Krauter, Ph.D., California State University, Fresno

Frank Mitloehner, Ph.D., University of California, Davis

David Crow of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and a representative of the state Air Resources Board also attended.



Three dairy cows relax in an air-tight chamber at the University of California, Davis, that measures their emissions. Computers are used to identify and categorize the gases over a specified period of time.

Reps. Jim Costa and Devin Nunes, far right, listen to presentations by scientists, dairy industry and air pollution district representatives, left during the town hall.



A monitoring station set up by California State University, Fresno, monitors air quality downwind from a dairy in Hanford.

The station, right, is one of several set up around the dairy to capture emissions, which are analyzed and identified. Plans are already in place to conduct more extensive research around dairies in the months ahead.



Quick Facts

In August, Rep. Nunes helped 50 constituents overcome problems with government agencies.

For the year, the Congressman has directly solved cases for 340 constituents and is currently assisting 525 others.

Furthermore, since Rep. Nunes was elected to Congress he has directly solved cases for 1,340 constituent.